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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

THE COLOGNE CONGRESS PROGRAMME

BESIDES Social Service or Health Nursing and Nursing by Religious Orders, a main topic at Cologne will be State Registration and its effects in all the countries where it is in force. Our members will be asked to bring testimony directed to the objections made by enemies of registration who ignore the educational factor of registration and regard it as a mere device for an intelligence office. We shall gather evidence as to the effect of registration upon the probationer's training; upon quack or correspondence or short-term or long-term theoretical schools so-called; upon affiliation or the grouping of institutions for training; upon central preparatory schools and post-graduate courses. We shall also inquire whether state examination reacts well upon the essentially practical, nursing part of the nurse's work, and whether it stimulates a better preparation in the branches that are considered peculiarly "women's work," such as the household sciences.

We shall also ask to be told whether legal status and state examination tend to persuade women of superior education to enter the nursing profession, and whether it adds a note of ambition and pride to the career of the average nurse to know that there is a definite minimum standard to attain.

We shall also ask incidentally about the bogey of "character not registrable" and whether any one has met this spectre; also, how central registries work out where registered nurses and the untrained, but honest and dependable attendants are graded according to the kind of work each is adapted for, and under an ethical system directed and controlled by nurses. We know of some such registries, and believe they offer the only solution of the vexed question of the employment of the untrained.

THE AUSTRALIAN TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION

THROUGH the kindness of the secretary of the association we have received a very interesting annual report ending at June 30, 1911, which outlines a year of progress. The number of members throughout the States of Australia is over 3000, of which 179 are medical members.

The association recognizes hospitals which come up to a standard of training, and during the year three have been recognized as training schools, while two have been struck off the list. This means that the graduates of the former are eligible for membership, while the latter are not.

The most important feature of the past year is held to be the formation of a register for mental nurses in New South Wales. When the association was formed twelve years ago it was considered that the supervision and training of mental nurses were not complete and they were therefore not admitted to membership. This objection no longer exists, and they may now become members. A general nurse may now have her name placed on the mental register after training for an extra two years in a recognized mental training school and passing the examination upon mental nursing. Similarly a mental nurse may be registered as a general nurse by spending two years in a recognized general hospital and passing the examinations. (Final examinations are set by the association, as Australia has not yet state registration; all is voluntary.)

It is believed that state registration may be obtained in the present year. A bill is already before the federal government, and a deputation from the Nurses' Council has been received by the Minister of the Crown, who has expressed full sympathy with the bill. It may be made a government measure in the coming Parliament.

ITEMS

THE Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, which has always had a medical president, is contemplating the election of a nurse as president.

IN India, the Bombay Presidency Nursing Association is also moving towards ultimate state registration, having agreed upon a standard of training which shall qualify to practise in that Presidency. As most of the hospitals are supported or partly subsidized by the government, it is possible for an arrangement of this kind to have all the force of law, or nearly as much.

AN ample and comprehensive biography of Theodore Fliedner, the famous pastor of Kaiserswerth who revived the Apostolic Order of Deaconesses, has been prepared by his son George Fliedner. It is in three volumes and gives in detail the wonderful history of Kaiserswerth. It is published by the press of the Deaconess Institute.

A GERMAN nurse who has had long experience as assistant to the police in one of the German cities, Sister Henrietta Arendt, is attracting much attention and gripping the public conscience by a series of lectures that she is giving in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria upon Child Slavery in Europe. Sister Henrietta began unearthing facts of a most terrible kind as to children while she was in her official position. The passion of pity and horror with which she followed her clues, and her unchecked reprobation and denunciation of official lethargy and even intentional blindness, of which she roundly accused authorities and philanthropic societies, brought about the loss of her position in a storm of controversy, and she then began lecturing to arouse public opinion and collect funds necessary for her work of rescue to which she consecrated herself. Her statements as to the extent of child slavery of different kinds in various European countries—slavery of little girls for prostitution and of waifs of both sexes sold to professional beggars, are horrible as nightmares, but are supported by documentary evidence and by her own experiences. She declares that the existence of these horrors is well known to the police and the societies for children's aid, but probably from the difficulty of obtaining legal testimony and also, as she believes, because of red tape, the trade in buying and selling children goes on. She herself supports by her lectures and writings several hundred children whom she has rescued. Her lectures make one feel that women must be roused at any cost and in any way possible to the need of women enfranchised to take active and commanding part in social regeneration.